



# Aberdeen Local Development Plan Review

## Pre- Main Issues Report Questionnaire 2018

Aberdeen City Council is currently in the early stages of reviewing the Aberdeen Local Development Plan 2017(ALDP). The 2018 Development Plan Scheme provides a timetable for the review of the ALDP and the opportunities to participate throughout the process.

It is available to view online at: [www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/localdevelopmentplan](http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/localdevelopmentplan)

This questionnaire forms part of the pre-Main Issues Report consultation activities we are undertaking. It is designed to gather views on the main planning issues in Aberdeen to be considered by the next ALDP.

### Using your Personal Information

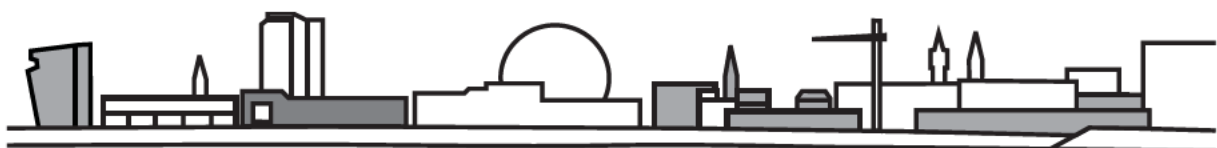
Information you supply to Aberdeen City Council (ACC) in this questionnaire will be used to prepare the Local Development Plan. ACC will not share the personal information provided in this questionnaire with other parties or organisations. ACC will not disclose any contact information about you to any organisation or person unless it is authorised or required to do so by law.

The Local Development Plan team may use your contact details to contact you about the comments you have made. Your name and organisation may be published alongside your comments but contact details will not be made public. If you chose not to provide a name or contact details, your comments will still be valid but we will not be able to contact you in the future.

For further information on how your information is used, how ACC maintain the security of your information, and your rights to access information ACC holds about you, please contact Andrew Brownrigg, Team Leader, Local Development Plan Team, Strategic Place Planning, Aberdeen City Council, Business Hub 4 Marischal College, Broad Street, Aberdeen AB10 1AB.

A separate form for submitting development sites for consideration can be found on our website at: [www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/localdevelopmentplan](http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/localdevelopmentplan)

**Our consultation runs from the 19th March to the 8th of May 2018.  
Please note the deadline has been extended to Monday 28th May 2018.**



## 1. YOUR DETAILS

1.1 Please let us know the capacity in which you are completing this questionnaire. Are you...

- A member of the public
- A community representative e.g Community Council

If yes, which area do you represent?

- A developer/ their agent
- A landowner/ their agent
- From a Key Agency
- Other

NGO - Paths for All

1.2 Please provide your name and contact details:

Name and Organisation:

Ian McCall Paths for All

Address:

Postcode:

Telephone:

Email:

1.3 If you are acting as an agent or completing this on behalf of an organisation, group or landowner, please provide their details:

Organisation/group/landowner:

Paths for All

Address:

Postcode:

Telephone:

Email:

## 2. ABERDEEN'S MAIN PLANNING ISSUES

Feel free to continue on separate sheets if necessary and attach to the questionnaire. You do not have to answer every question.

### Vision

2.1 What do you think are the most important things that make Aberdeen a good place to live, visit and/or work?

2.2 What do you think should be the Council's top priorities for the next Aberdeen Local Development Plan?

The plan should be seen in the wider policy context – National Walking Strategy, Cycling Action Plan for Scotland and the Long-term Vision for Active Travel in Scotland.

The National Walking Strategy makes the links between active travel, health and environment. It has three strategic aims:

- Create a culture of walking
- Better walking environments throughout Scotland
- Ensure easy, convenient independent mobility for all

The plan should align with the Nestrans Active Travel Action Plan (AcTrAP) 2014-2035  
[www.nestrans.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/AcTrAP\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.nestrans.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/AcTrAP_FINAL.pdf)

The plan should highlight the importance of the health agenda, behaviour change and preventative spend

2.3 Do you have any particular aspirations for your community or Aberdeen as a whole that you think should be taken forward through the ALDP? For example, what are your views on recycling of waste, affordable housing, access to green space or ways to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions?

The plan is an opportunity to support the development of better active travel and joined up public transport options which will result in reduced CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Planning has a key role in creating places that reduce isolation and loneliness and reducing obesity.

## Policy Topic Areas

### What do you think should be our main planning priorities for...

**2.4** ...the City Centre? (For example, what should the role of Union Street be? Does the City Centre have all the uses we want, or should there be more uses there - and if so where could they go?)

**2.5** ...providing infrastructure? (For example, how should new infrastructure be provided and how might it be paid for?)

The plan should promote high quality infrastructure for active travel, greenspace and active recreation.

**2.6** ...transport and accessibility? (For example, how can we make it easier to travel in and around Aberdeen? Should we look at pedestrianisation in the City Centre?)

**2.7** ...ensuring we have high quality buildings and places? (For example, how can we better protect our built heritage and ensure high quality and sympathetic architecture and landscape design?)

We know that to provide an effective walking infrastructure there are 5 "must haves":

- Well maintained streets, paths and public spaces – including level, smooth surfaces that are fully accessible, fit for purpose and with reduced street clutter;
- Information on walking routes to key destinations and places to walk, including more paths with signage;
- Seating, public toilets and good lighting, as a minimum provision in a high-quality, person-centred public realm;
- Safe places to cross roads with pedestrians given priority at signalized crossings;
- Vehicle speeds limited to 20mph.

Public Attitudes to Walking in Scotland A Comparison of Opinion Monitor Surveys - 2009 and 2014

We are pleased to see the use of the Place Standard tool in this consultation.

The Place Standard and Street Audits are important tools in designing and planning walkable and cycleable neighbourhoods - informing local decisions such as reallocating road space and re-design/regeneration of existing places and spaces. They work and have been shown to work. Making use of these tools in designing projects will accelerate the uptake of active travel

**2.8** ...meeting the needs of business and industry? (For example, what can be done to retain existing businesses and attract new employment opportunities to Aberdeen?)

There is strong evidence of the social return from investing in walking and cycling. There is the value of the tourist / visitor expenditure, but also the socioeconomic value for residents and visitors that better health, inclusion and environment can bring. The plan should also promote getting workplaces active.

**2.9** ...meeting Aberdeen's housing and community needs? (For example, how can we meet the needs of people who cannot afford mainstream housing?)

We are not in a position to comment on housing supply but new housing developments must take on board the latest guidance on sustainability and particularly active travel and public transport.

**2.10** ...supporting retail centres across Aberdeen? (For example, should we be safeguarding existing centres, and what are your thoughts on new out-of-town retail parks?)

There is good evidence that creating walkable places has significant economic benefits.

There should be a presumption against out of town developments - the emphasis should be on denser developmen

**2.11** ...protecting and enhancing the natural environment and preventing flooding? (For example, what areas or features should we be safeguarding?)

The plan should seek to protect and enhance walking and cycling routes and greenspace.

**2.12** ...ensuring that resources and waste are managed sustainably? (For example, can we make more innovative use of waste as a resource? Should we encourage renewable energy use? How could we do these things?)

**2.13** If you have any views on topics not covered above, please write them below.

The National Walking Strategy Action Plan outlines some key game-changers. One of these is the role that planning can play in promoting multi-use development where people live in walkable proximity to employment and retail and through supporting the Town Centre First principle.

Planning is highlighted further in a strategic theme of the Action Plan which is to: "achieve better quality walking environments with attractive, well designed and managed built and natural spaces and places for everyone".

Specific actions where planners can contribute are also contained in the action plan. They include:

- Prioritise and support good quality walking environments, including green infrastructure, through planning and development
- Ensure all households in Scotland's urban areas are no more than 5 minutes' walk from promoted, publicly accessible and attractive greenspace, parks or local path networks
- Ensure all future planning policies / developments prioritise walking
- Ensure designs for public and private developments deliver secure connectivity within communities for pedestrians
- Develop the capacity of locally based organisations, including community planning partnerships, to identify the scope for large and small improvements to the walking environment
- Ensure all local authorities, national park authorities and other land managers adopt the Path Grading System across Scotland
- The National Planning Framework, Scottish Planning Policy, development plans and development management processes should mainstream infrastructure and the right environments to encourage walking.
- Promote the Place Standard as a means of encouraging developments to mainstream walking in their design

Active Travel

Our vision is for walking and cycling to be the natural choice for short journeys, creating a healthier, socially inclusive, economically vibrant, environmentally friendly Scotland.

Active Travel is about improving quality of life and quality of place. With over 50% of all driven journeys in Scotland being less than 5km, and 25% less than 2km, there is plenty of scope for achieving a significant shift to walking and cycling as the most sustainable forms of transport.

The Smarter Choices, Smarter Places (SCSP) programme is Transport Scotland's grant scheme managed by Paths for All to support behaviour change initiatives to increase active and sustainable travel modes.

The economic benefits associated with increased physical activity levels far outweigh any initial costs. Cost Benefit Ratios for walking developments show significant value for money. Cost/Benefit on Investment (CBI) evidence shows a value of

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire. Please return completed questionnaires to:

### Local Development Plan Team

Strategic Place Planning

Aberdeen City Council

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Ground Floor North

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Aberdeen

AB10 1AB

Twitter: [@AberdeenLDP](#)

You can also visit the Aberdeen Local Development Plan Facebook page.

**COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRES SHOULD BE WITH US BY NO LATER THAN 28 MAY 2018.**

If you wish to be added to the LDP E-Mailing list to be kept informed of our progress in producing the next Local Development Plan, please tick here.

If yes, please provide an email address